

Wai'anae Valley Homestead Community Association

85-1216 Kumaipo Street
Wai'anae, HI 96792

January 24, 2005

Marlene H. Dortch
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Supporting Comments - Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. - Petition for
Waiver of the Definition of "Study Area," CC Docket No. 96-45

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am Ivan E. Laikupu, President of the Wai'anae Valley Homestead Community Association (WVHCA) and we are pleased to submit this letter in support of Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. (SIC) petition for a waiver of the definition of "Study Area" CC Docket No. 96-45.

The Wai'anae Valley homestead community was established in 1978 with 135 homes which has now grown to over 405 with an estimated 1600 native Hawaiians in residence. The affairs of the community are managed by an eight member volunteer board who serve as facilitators to bring programs and services into our community. When we learned in 1997 of a bold and challenging effort that would one day connect all of the homestead areas throughout the state, we were not only impressed with the vision, foresight and commitment to enable the homestead community to transition into the fast growing and dynamic telecommunications world but that it would be available to all homesteaders no matter where in the state they resided and that this effort was being spearheaded by native Hawaiians qualified in the telecommunications field. We joined our sister homestead communities on the island of O'ahu and throughout the state to support the efforts of Sandwich Isles Communication Inc. and have been proud of the progress and quality of their services.

This matter before you regarding the petition for waiver submitted by Sandwich Isles Communications, Inc. (SIC) is an issue of great concern to all homesteaders in the state. The native Hawaiian owned and operated company took on the challenge back in 1997 to provide service to our homestead communities where no one else was willing to serve, no matter where they were located. This is no easy task as some of our homestead areas are in very isolated areas, however despite the costs and the obstacles, SIC moved as

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quickly as possible to provide them connectivity. We are now able to connect with family and friends in areas where no telecommunications services were available.

SIC is working very hard to achieve their goal of improving our quality of life by providing a first rate infrastructure that will one day connect all Hawaiian homesteaders and allow us to fully compete in this global economy.

SIC deserves your continued support and assistance. We ask for your favorable consideration to approve the SIC petition and allow them to continue reaching unserved areas on Hawaiian Home Lands as our exclusive service provider. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ivan E. Laikupu", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ivan E. Laikupu
President